

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DANIEL LEE THORNBERRY,

Plaintiff,

v.

WILEY,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:20-cv-00328-SKO (PC)

**ORDER REFERRING CASE TO POST-
SCREENING ADR AND STAYING CASE
FOR 90 DAYS**

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* in this civil rights action. As set forth in its service order, the Court has found that Plaintiff states at least one cognizable claim for relief. (Doc. 15.) On November 8, 2021, Defendants filed an answer to Plaintiff's first amended complaint. (Doc. 24.)

The Court is referring all civil rights cases filed by *pro se* inmates to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to attempt to resolve such cases more expeditiously and less expensively. In appropriate cases, defense counsel from the California Attorney General's Office have agreed to participate in ADR. No claims, defenses, or objections are waived by the parties' participation.

The Court, therefore, STAYS this action for 90 days to allow the parties to investigate Plaintiff's claims, meet and confer, and participate in an early settlement conference. The Court presumes that all post-screening civil rights cases assigned to the undersigned will proceed to a settlement conference. However, if, after investigating Plaintiff's claims and meeting and

1 conferring, either party finds that a settlement conference would be a waste of resources, the party
2 may opt out of the early settlement conference.

3 Accordingly, the Court **ORDERS**:

- 4 1. This action is STAYED for 90 days to allow the parties an opportunity to settle their
5 dispute before the discovery process begins. No pleadings or motions may be filed in
6 this case during the stay. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery, but they
7 may engage in informal discovery to prepare for the settlement conference.
- 8 2. **Within 40 days** from the date of this order, the parties SHALL file the attached
9 notice, indicating their agreement to proceed to an early settlement conference or their
10 belief that settlement is not achievable at this time.
- 11 3. **Within 45 days** from the date of this order, the assigned Deputy Attorney General
12 SHALL contact the undersigned's Courtroom Deputy Clerk at
13 wkusamura@caed.uscourts.gov to schedule the settlement conference.
- 14 4. If the parties reach a settlement during the stay of this action, they SHALL file a
15 Notice of Settlement as required by Local Rule 160.
- 16 5. The Clerk's Office SHALL serve via email copies of Plaintiff's first amended
17 complaint (Doc. 14), the Court's service order (Doc. 15), and this order to Supervising
18 Deputy Attorney General Lawrence Bragg, and a copy of this order to ADR
19 Coordinator Sujean Park.
- 20 6. The parties must keep the Court informed of their current addresses during the stay
21 and the pendency of this action. Changes of address must be reported promptly in a
22 Notice of Change of Address. *See* Local Rule 182(f).

23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24 Dated: **November 9, 2021**

25 /s/ Sheila K. Oberto
26 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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**NOTICE REGARDING EARLY
SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

The party believes that an early settlement conference would be productive and wishes to engage in an early settlement conference.

Yes _____ No _____

Dated:

Plaintiff or Counsel for Defendants